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INSTRUMENT MENTOR MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORTING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

As the recognized expert in a particular instrument system, the ARM instrument mentor plays a key role in maintaining the quality of the data produced by the instruments. The mentor, although not directly responsible for daily monitoring of the deployed instruments, is the first to be consulted, for anything other than routine fixes. Therefore, the mentor also has the accumulated knowledge to spot long term trends in instrument performance and can suggest preventive and corrective action to upgrade degrading instruments. In order to capture these longer term instrument data reviews and make them easily accessible, an on-line equivalent of the mentor's lab notebook was developed. These monthly reports about the instrument system's current status across all deployed locations in ARM contain a publicly viewable Data Review section and more private sections intended for ACRF managers (in particular the Instrument Mentor Coordinator) for Instrument Performance Issues and Trends, Current Tasks, Near-Term Plans, Accomplishments and Issues/Concerns (e.g. budget, schedule conflicts, etc.). The public reports are linked prominently on the new ARM web page's "Instrument", "Measurements", and "Data" tabs for specific instruments and should be required reading for anybody seriously interested in acquiring data from that instrument. These reports discuss notable events and their effects on the data, e.g., atmospheric conditions, instrument problems, instrument modifications or sensor changes, calibration updates, and periods when the instrument was out of service. The mentor can upload and link in related supporting documents like images or figures. Any open instrument issues tracked in ARM problem tracking and change control systems (DQPRs, PIFs, BCRs and ECRs) are automatically linked into the report display.
